

Two things are self-evident:

1- Our growth as a nation needs broadband access for as many people as possible.

2 - Putting short-term opportunities for small improvements in "broadband" access ahead of long-term RF pollution issues is worse than doing nothing.

Broadband is demonstrably bad technology. Power lines radiate, and it's been shown over and over again that interference in the HF (shortwave) portion of the spectrum is severe.

It's time we start working diligently to REDUCE all interference to the RF spectrum, not allow it to increase. Especially not for a short term gain.

I say short term, because what we consider "broadband" today is tomorrow's obsolete technology. Like a surfer, we'll never be successful chasing behind the waves. We need to adopt technologies that work today and which can be easily modified to handle the demands tomorrow. We need to be in front of the wave in order to ride it successfully.

At the same time, we must protect the RF environment. After all that is THE justification for having the FCC in the first place: to manage the national resource to all citizens that our RF spectrum represents. Allowing one technology to virtually destroy the usefulness of a major part of that spectrum to current users runs against that purpose.

HF communications are today a crucial part of our nation's reserves in case of emergencies as well as for day-to-day use. We know that common communications systems are designed for typical loads, not the high-volumes placed on them in times of emergency. Cellular telephones, wired telephones and satellite systems are easily overwhelmed and the equipment itself is vulnerable to damage. HF communications services, especially those provided by licensed Amateur Radio Operators, are key in such situations. Not just "Hams" using vulnerable VHF/UHF FM repeaters, but "Hams" able to communicate point-to-point via HF with no intermediate systems. Broadband has been shown to be a major threat to all of these critical options in time of emergency and in times of normal use.

Please, protect the RF spectrum from pollution. Insist that businesses invest as needed to use good engineering practices to provide communications that does not destroy the very RF spectrum resources you are chartered to protect for ALL Americans.